Good morning,

Please see the following feedback regarding the HRA Commercial Corridor Fund:

Feedback from West 7th/Fort Road Federation, D9:

The draft proposal for the Commercial Corridor Fund has potential but requires more specificity to evaluate its effectiveness, but overall seems like a positive addition. Without clarity on grant amounts, it's challenging to gauge its utility. We emphasize the importance of ensuring that the fund prioritizes neighborhoods with a history of disinvestment rather than those already well-resourced. Additionally, there could also be a set amount of funds per district.

The focus on streetscape improvements feels insufficient for areas like West 7th, where transformative infrastructure changes are urgently needed. Funds allocated for benches or planters don't address foundational issues such as state highway prioritization over community needs.

Key recommendations:

1. **Eliminate Reimbursement-Based Funding, or Consider a Portion Eligible for Pre-Payment**: Small organizations have difficulty fronting costs.
2. **Grant Size**: This needs to be based on the goal of the project. In many areas, a micro grant feels too small to make an impact on the corridor, unless the overall goal is to fund many, smaller projects.
3. **Eligible Activities**: Include innovative uses like activating vacant spaces with pop-ups and events.

The fund should complement—not replace—more significant infrastructure improvements, remaining aligned with overarching development goals. Ultimately, more information and detail on fund structure, priorities, and equity will guide further discussion.

Thank you,
Julia McColley
Executive Director
West 7th / Fort Road Federation
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